

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed 9/24/02 (Paper No. 3). Claims 1, and 9 have been amended above. Claim 6 has been deleted above without prejudice. Claims 1-5, and 7-11 are now pending in this application.

A marked-up version of the rewritten paragraph(s), sections(s) and claims is attached hereto.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Appended hereto is a Proposed Amendment for Approval by the Examiner which overcomes the objections.

The Examiner has objected to the title. The title has been amended to overcome the objection.

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Fujita. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 1 and 9 are similar in that both claims call for the shaft part having a first portion (on the axis of rotation and carrying a bearing surface) and a second portion (extending radially beyond the bearing surface), the first and second portions being integrally formed. Nowhere in this disclosed in Fujita. In Figs. 1-3, Fujita discloses shaft 1 with slide cam 8 slidably mounted thereon. Cam 8 is an individual piece, as is shaft 1. Cam 8 in Fujita is not integrally formed with shaft 1, nor can it be because cam 8 must slide longitudinally over the shaft 1. If the cam 8 and shaft 1 in Fujita were integrally formed, the cam could not move (slide) relative to the shaft thereby preventing the Fujita hinge from operating. The hinge of Fujita must be constructed such that the shaft 1 and cam 8 are not integrally formed. There is no disclosure or suggestion


in Fujita that the shaft and cam 8 should be integrally formed (if such an integral formation were provided the hinge of Fujita would not function) and the Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 9 is likewise patentable over the cited prior art. Claims 1-5, and 7-11 are patentable over the cited prior art and should be allowed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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12/20/02
Date

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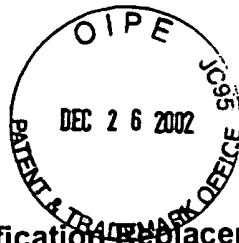
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 12/20/02

Signature: Carolina Rodriguez
Person Making Deposit

Application No.: 09/892,389



Marked Up Specification Replacement Section(s)

HINGE[S] HAVING ENGAGEMENT SURFACE TO RESTRAIN ROTATIONAL
MOVEMENT AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE CONTAINING SUCH A HINGE

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GROUP 3600



Marked Up Specification Replacement Paragraph(s)

Figures 7a and 7b and Figures 8a and 8b show details of groove[s] profiles P1, P2, P3, P4 which can be used in any of the grooves 36, 38, 67, 68 of different hinge embodiments shown in Figures 3-5, and 6a-6d. The principles shown in these Figures can apply to any of the embodiments of the invention previously described. In Figures 7a and 7b, grooves are shown which have different depths. Deeper grooves provide a greater locking force since a leg of the hinge shaft element located in the groove has to move a further distance against the biasing force in order for the hinge shaft element to be free for rotational movement. In Figures 8a and 8b, groove[s] profiles P3, P4 are shown which have different wall angles 80 and 82. The wall angle 80 provides a smaller locking force than the wall angle 82 since if the same force is applied to rotate a hinge shaft element in each case, in the case of profile P3 in the Figure 8a embodiment, a greater proportion of this force is available to force the leg of the groove due to the wall angle 80.



Marked Up Claim(s)

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GROUP 3600

1. (Amended) A hinge comprising a shaft part and a housing part, the parts being relatively moveable about a common axis of rotation, the shaft part having a first portion lying on the common axis of rotation, the first portion carrying a bearing surface, and a second portion extending radially beyond the bearing surface of the first portion, the first and second portions being integrally formed, the housing part having an engagement surface and a hinge surface, the hinge surface co-operating with the bearing surface of the first portion and the engagement surface engaging with the second portion to restrain the shaft part from rotational movement, the shaft part being moveable relative to the housing part between a first position in which the second portion is engaged with the engagement surface and a second position in which the second portion is not engaged with the engagement surface.

9. (Amended) An electronic device comprising a first body element and a second body element connected by a hinge, the hinge comprising a shaft part and a housing part, the parts being relatively moveable about a common axis of rotation, the shaft part having a first portion lying on the common axis of rotation, the first portion carrying a bearing surface, and a second portion extending radially beyond the bearing surface of the first portion, the first and second portions being integrally formed, the housing part having an engagement surface and a hinge surface, the hinge surface co-operating with the bearing surface of the first portion and the engagement surface engaging with the second portion to restrain the shaft part from

rotational movement, the shaft part being moveable relative to the housing part between a first position in which the second portion is engaged with the engagement surface and a second position in which the second portion is not engaged with the engagement surface.